

MSC: South Atlantic Division

Modernization Proposal – MSC Priority Number: 1

District: Mobile

Water Resource Project Name and State: Black Warrior & Tombigbee Lakes, Alabama

PWI Number: 001680

Recreation Area Name: Jennings Ferry

1. Current Condition of the Recreation Area

Currently the area is a combined campground and day-use area. Development includes 25 primitive campsites, 2 portable vault toilets, and a boat-launching ramp. The campsites are surfaced with crushed stone and do not have electrical or water hookups. Sixteen of the campsites have impact areas; the remainder have no impact area delineated. An artesian well in the park has dried up over the past few years leaving the park with no potable water. Electric service is nearby, but not currently in the park. There are no flush toilets or showers. The park was first developed in the early 1960's with only minimum improvements since. The park access road and road to the boat ramp are paved; campground roads are gravel surfaced.

Current management problems at Jennings Ferry Park include misuse of facilities and vandalism associated with lack of controlled access and mixed uses. A control station, included in this proposal, will help resolve these problems.

2. Congressional District : Jennings Ferry Park is located in the 7th Congressional District of Alabama, Rep. Earl Hilliard

Jennings Ferry Visitation and Revenue (x 1000)

Visitation (visitors/year) and Revenue (\$)										
	PY-6	PY-5	PY-4	PY-3	PY-2	PY-1	PY	PY+1	PY+2	PY+3
Visitation	81.6	96.2	106.9	201.6	220.0	242.0	266.0	293.0	322.0	354.0
Revenue (Total)	0	0	1.6	2.9	3.2	3.5	3.9	44.7	53.6	64.7
Day Use Revenue	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$1.6	\$2.9	\$3.2	\$3.5	\$3.9	\$4.7	\$5.6	\$6.7
Camping Revenue	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$40.0	\$48.0	\$58.0

Camping fees have not been collected in the area during the past five years because of the lack of potable water. Day use fees for boat launching were implemented in FY-98. The increase in boat ramp use and revenue in FY-99 is the public's response to road and parking improvements made at the ramp at the end of FY-98.

3. Public Involvement and Support

In spite of meager facilities, the park is popular for use by visitors and also various fishing groups who hold tournaments during the year. The park's current popularity can be attributed to the lack of better facilities on Warrior Lake. There are four Class "A" campgrounds on the other Black Warrior and Tombigbee Lakes, but none on Warrior Lake. Public dissatisfaction with current facilities in the park has been a concern. Frequent requests are received from park users for electrical and water service, better sanitary facilities, and better security. County officials have also expressed the desire for improvements in the park.

4. Impact on the local and regional economy

Jennings Ferry Park is comprised of a 39-acre peninsula on Warrior Lake located three miles upstream of Armistead L. Selden Lock and Dam on the Black Warrior River. The park is located one mile south of Alabama Highway 14 at the east end of a bridge crossing the main river channel. The river channel marks the boundary between Greene and Hale Counties, economically depressed counties in Alabama. Increased usage in the park resulting from modernization would have an economic impact in this part of Alabama that would not be felt in more prosperous areas.

The metropolitan area of Tuscaloosa, AL is located 35 miles north of the park. Jennings Ferry Park is located 9 miles from the interchange of Interstates 20 and 59, which are the major routes between Atlanta, Georgia and Dallas, Texas and New Orleans, Louisiana. The park's location, at a state highway bridge crossing the lake near two major interstate systems will assure modernization improvements will be well utilized. Jennings Ferry is uniquely located to provide maximum economic impact; adjacent to a major interstate highway in a rural economically depressed region.

5. Modernization Actions and Cost:

<u>Proposed Action</u>	<u>Cost (000's)</u>
Relocate 26 campsites from a closed campground (Rocky Branch Park) to provide a total of 51 campsites. Upgrade & modernize the 51 campsites to include: concrete RV pullout, electric and water hookups, and impact area with table, grill, fire ring, and lantern holder. Most of the campsites will be ADA compliant.	\$250
Extend municipal water into park from current municipal distribution lines located three miles away. The Hale County Water Board, municipal water provider in the area, has recently proposed sharing costs with the Corps for water line construction into Jennings Ferry Park which will also serve residential customers in the vicinity.	\$135
Upgrade and pave campground circulation roads.	\$350
Construct ADA accessible waterborne restroom with showers in the campground to replace the current vault type portable toilet.	\$250
Construct sanitary dump station.	\$50
Construct children's playground in campground.	\$10
Develop a nature trail to highlight the natural beauty of the area and provide shoreline access for bank fishermen.	\$25
Construct a park attendant station to collect user fees and provide security and assistance to visitors. Also construct attendant campsites near the entrance station.	\$150
Install security lights and a courtesy dock at the boat ramp.	\$25
Construct waterborne toilet in Day Use Area	\$150
Construct fish cleaning station	\$100
Cost Estimate	\$1,495
10% Contingency	\$150
<u>Total Cost</u> (thousands)	\$1,645

6. Projected O&M Savings

Modest increases in O&M costs are anticipated as a result of the modernization, of which the most significant will be for gate attendant services. However, these costs will be significantly offset by the collection of increased revenues.

The modernization work can be accomplished using an existing O&M contract and a delivery order contract for construction services (MATOC). Design requirements can be accomplished by Project Landscape Architect and District Office resources. Standard designs are in place for sanitary facilities.

I certify that this proposal is complete and accurate and that the modernization of this recreation area can be accomplished in the program year.

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